TL 1851

Mr John Sinnott
Acting co-ordinator
Australian Coalition for East Timor

Dear Sir

We write in reference to the national meeting of Australian Solidarity groups for East Timor held in Melbourne in September.

UDT and FRETILIN as two political parties which were established in East Timor and have accompanied the unfolding of events since the Indonesian invasion of our country, welcome your initiative in restructuring the East Timor solidarity movement in Australia as it will without doubt contribute to a greater effectiveness in your support for our struggle. However, as Timorese political parties and legitimate representatives of our people, we have become increasingly concerned with the process of your restructuring and in particularly your lack of consultation with either of the two institutions during this process.

Further we wish to seek clarification why neither UDT nor FRETILIN were invited to participate in the national meeting of East Timorese solidarity groups held in Melbourne in September, given that the two political parties have been working with and have a role in defining the priorities for the Australian solidarity movement.

In reference to the resolutions which arose from the ACET meeting we wish to make the following observations:

RE RELATIONS WITH OTHER GROUPS

Point 2
Although UDT and FRETILIN agree that ETRA's primary role should conform with its original mandate of providing the much needed humanitarian aid to East Timor, we wish to seek clarification on why there is a need for ACET and ETRA to co-ordinate its work in order to cease competition between the two organisations, given that one is a relief organisation and the other is a solidarity organisation.

Point 3
UDT and FRETILIN have regional directorates, committees and representatives in most Australian states and as in the example of Sydney, representatives of UDT and FRETILIN attend solidarity group meetings regularly. UDT and FRETILIN representatives continue to be available for consultations and are happy to meet with solidarity group members. Further we wish to recommend that ACET members understand and embrace their work in the true sense of solidarity with our struggle by maintaining respect of the processes and dynamics within this struggle and avoiding tendencies or alignments which will result in unnecessary conflicts between the Timorese people.

RE INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

4. UDT and FRETILIN have no objections to ACET seeking membership with APCET however we take this opportunity to clarify the differences between UDT and FRETILIN which are historical Timorese political parties which continue to have bases in East Timor and CNRM and ETRA. We wish to remind members of ACET that CNRM is not an organisation outside of East Timor, Mr Jose Ramos Horta is the special representative of CNRM (which is based in East Timor) as nominated by Xanana Gusmao. ETRA is a relief association whose work is of similar calibre to that of numerous other Timorese community organisations which contribute in various ways to our struggle. Therefore ACET should also write to these organisations if its objective is to be inclusive of all Timorese organisations.

RE STRUCTURE

Point 5
As mentioned previously UDT and FRETILIN are Timorese political parties established in East Timor, who have accompanied the attempts to decolonise the territory and the process since the Indonesian invasion and who continue to conduct the struggle of our people. Therefore UDT and FRETILIN are available to work in co-ordination with ACET to further the work of our struggle. UDT and FRETILIN are not advisory organisations and can not be regarded and defined in the same level as ETRA or the special representative of CNRM.

RE AIMS

Point 9

Sub point 1.UDT and FRETILIN in consultation with its members outside and inside East Timor have no doubts that the aspirations of our people is for self determination and independence. Therefore we wish to recommend that this point be rephrased to "support for genuine self determination and the right of the Timorese people to independence".

Sub point 4. The so called CNRM peace plan is a document which has not been discussed by the Timorese Resistance nor has it the endorsement of UDT and FRETILIN. UDT and FRETILIN therefore propose that this point be rephrased to "promote any initiative for peace in East Timor that allows for genuine self determination and which has the full support of all Timorese political organisations".

Sub points 3,5,6,7 should be conducted in co-ordination with UDT and FRETILIN

UDT and FRETILIN would like to recommend the following additions to the ACET aims:

Sub point 8) support Timorese political parties namely UDT and FRETILIN

Sub point 9) support all Timorese community organisations which contribute towards the preservation of Timorese culture and identity, provide humanitarian aid to East Timor and contribute towards self determination and independence of the Timorese people.

Sub point 10) campaign for the unconditional release of Xanana Gusmao and all Timorese political prisoners

RE NATIONAL EAST TIMOR CONFERENCE

Point 10

UDT and FRETILIN in their capacity as Timorese political parties, representatives of the Timorese people and directives in the East Timorese struggle should be present at this conference and must be involved in its orientation together with the special representative of CNRM.

We take this opportunity to also thank you for your work and support for our struggle thus far and hope that together and with mutual respect we will be able to find an appropriate and complementary plane of understanding and action.

Milena Pires
Vice President, UDT
2 November 1994

Estanislau da Silva
FRETILIN External Delegation
2 November 1994